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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

NORTH VIETNAM AIRFIELD STUDY

CIA/PIR-67006

JULY 1965

Declass Review by
NIMA/DOD



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NORTH VIETNAM AIRFIELD STUDY

A study of recent available aerial photography of North Vietnam revealed bomb damage and subsequent repair work to airfields in North Vietnam.

Bomb damage assessment was available on Dong Hoi, Vinh, Na San, and Dien Bien Phu Airfields. Repair work on all damaged fields consisted primarily of filling and grading over the craters. No apparent effort to repair damaged buildings was observed. Pierced steel planks were used in an effort to repair bomb craters at Dong Hoi.

A complete description of the airfields and the extent of bomb damage and repair work is as follows:

(a) Dong Hoi Airfield - located approximately 3.1 nm NNW of Dong Hoi - contains a 5,800 x 115 ft., asphalt and pierced steel plank runway, oriented WNW/ESE. Facilities include an operations buildings and 8 support buildings. Airstrikes on 30 March and 6 June 1965 resulted in 3 support buildings destroyed, 4 buildings damaged and severe damage to the operations building. Numerous cratering to the runway was observed. Runway is not serviceable and latest coverage shows the repair work continuing.

(b) Vinh Airfield - located approximately 3.5 nm north of Vinh - contains a 6,400 x 190 ft., laterite/asphalt runway, oriented N/S. Facilities include a weather station, 3 barracks, 1 administration, 2 storage and 3 support buildings. A total of 17 new aircraft revetments were observed. Construction continues on the loop taxiway servicing 8 of the reported additional aircraft revetments at the NW end of the runway. Air strikes on 12 May and 30 June 1965 resulted in 4 support buildings moderately damaged, 9 bomb craters observed in the support area, 6 craters on the runway and 41 craters in close proximity to the runway including cratered sections of the NW taxiway servicing the new revetments [REDACTED] the runway appeared serviceable with repair work continuing.

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(c) Na San Airfield - located approximately 2 nm east of Na San - contains a 4,000 x 90 ft., laterite runway, oriented WNW/ESE. Facilities include a parking apron and 13 buildings. An airstrike on 25 June 1965 resulted in one support building destroyed and 5 damaged. Numerous craters were observed at the NW and SE ends of the runway. The most recent aerial photography indicates the runway is still unserviceable.

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(d) Dien Bien Phu Airfield - located approximately 0.5 nm north of Dien Bien Phu - contains a 4,000 x 90 ft., laterite/asphalt runway, oriented NW/SSE. Facilities include a weather station, 3 barracks, one administration building, 2 storage buildings, 3 support buildings and additional small support buildings. Airstrikes on 2 and 10 July 1965 resulted in a total of 11 buildings destroyed, 3 damaged and numerous craters on the runway. A new AAA site was observed under construction immediately NNE of the airfield. The runway remains unserviceable.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

AMS Series L509 scale 1:250,000, Sheet NE 48-7, 2nd Edition, October 1962 (U)
AMS Series L509 scale 1:250,000, Sheet NE 48-9, 1st Edition, December 1963 (U)
AMS Series L509 scale 1:250,000, Sheet NF 48-10, 1st Edition, September 1955 (U)
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REQUIREMENT

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